

FEBRUARY 13th, 1816.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House on Friday next.

A Bill

To enable President of the United States to lease out, or grant for a term of years, mines of the precious metals, discovered upon the public lands.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of*
2 *the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That*
3 *the President of the United States be, and he is hereby autho-*
4 *rized to direct to be leased, or granted, for a term not exceed-*
5 *ing* *years, upon such conditions as he shall deem*
6 *expedient, any mine or mines of the precious metals discovered*
7 *upon the public lands: Provided, That no one lease, or grant,*
8 *shall include a larger quantity than one thousand acres of land:*
9 *And provided also, That the lease for the same shall not be*
10 *deemed binding and conclusive, until the lessee shall obtain,*
11 *from the mint of the United States, a certificate of having de-*

12 posited therein, gold or silver bullion of the value of one hun-
 13 dred thousand dollars; the said certificate to be lodged in the
 14 Treasury Office of the United States, within three years next
 15 after the date of the lease, which shall otherwise be void and of
 16 no effect.

1 *SEC. 2. And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty
 2 of the Secretary of the Treasury to report to the President of
 3 the United States, such information respecting the existence
 4 of mines of the precious metals, upon the public lands, as he
 5 may, from time to time, ~~obtain~~ from the discoverers thereof.

1 *SEC. 3. And be it further enacted,* That in all sales here-
 2 after to be made of the public lands, mines of the precious
 3 metals shall be reserved for the special disposal of the Presi-
 4 dent of the United States, under the provisions of this act; and
 5 any grant which shall hereafter be made for a tract of land,
 6 containing any mine or mines of the precious metals, which
 7 had been discovered previous to the purchase of such tract
 8 from the United States, shall be deemed and considered fraudu-
 9 lent and null, unless such grant or lease shall have been ob-
 10 tained, in pursuance of the provisions of this act.